



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
(new location)
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Nov. 11th, 2019

Dec. 9th, 2019

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page. Thank you to
Natalie KM6UCF.

What's New

KARO ECHO Meeting Nov. 11th, 1900 in El Cerrito

The KARO ECHO meeting start time continues to be 1900 (previously 1930). The location also continues to be the new Arlington Park Clubhouse location used for the past several months. The next meeting will be held on Monday November 11th at Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The training exercise portion of the meeting has been moved to the beginning of the meeting to be followed by the business meeting items. The first hour this month will be a review and discussion of the Oct 26th Simulated Emergency Test (SET), please bring your comments, questions and critiques. See the critique from Don NI6A on page 3.

KARO-ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET), October 26th

Thanks to all those who participated in the Oct 26th KARO ECHO fall Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for Saturday October 26th from 0900-1200. We had more than 20 operators check-in. 13 messages were passed to the EOC at El Cerrito City Hall, as well as others passed between neighborhoods. Natalie KM6UCF did a great job as a first time EOC operator. Special thanks to Chief Janes KI6KNP who generously open the city EOC for us both on Friday for orientation as well as on the day of the SET (including personal time when he wasn't on duty). Here is a [recording of the net frequency](#) (doesn't have messages passed on other frequencies).



Natalie KM6UCF operating as EOC during the Oct 26th SET

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Vice President Pro Tem:

Don NI6A

Emergency Coordinator:

Howdy KE6BEE

Newsletter editor:

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)***VE exam in El Cerrito**

KARO ECHO and the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC) are holding a VE licensing exam on Nov. 13th at 6:30pm (the exam is open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade with self study). FCC examinations and license applications will be administered by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Bring payment, photo ID and FRN number. The location for the class/exam is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

KARO ECHO Mobile Radio "Go-kit" Has a Home

A fully featured mobile radio "go-kit" with large battery, ham and GMRS radios, antennas and accessories (including message forms and documentation) is being deployed to Davis' KJ6PPR garage. A few KARO ECHO operators should have access in case of using it mobile in emergency operations.

Contact info@karoecho.net if you are interested in being one of the operators with access to this mobile kit.

Contra Costa County Regional Radio Communication Exercise, Nov. 16

The Nov. 16th exercise called "Light up the Bay," decided to focus on organizing CERT based communication exercises in Contra Costa County. Details are still developing regarding limited participation in some Kensington CERT areas. At this moment, there is not a plan for El Cerrito participation.

Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses

The two roof-top antenna patch boxes on the Harding and Tassajara clubhouses were used in the Oct 26th SET. KARO ECHO operators are encouraged to test using them. The boxes have combination lock access, contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net. Patch cords that can adapt to common hand held radios are stored in the boxes, but it is also a good idea for each operator to have a stock of appropriate adapters and cables to fit this, and other, external antenna connection applications.

Welcome New Hams

New Kensington licenses issued: KN6EIC, KN6EIH

New El Cerrito licenses issued: KN6DXD, KN6ESY, KN6FEZ, KN6FJK

Oct. 26th SET Critique

The following critique following the Oct. 26th SET was provided by Don, NI6A:

- A. We need practice determining message precedence:
 - Emergency
 - Priority
 - Welfare
 - Routine
- B. We need to learn: When to use formal written traffic When not to use written traffic. We did both. That's good. We can refine this in the future.
- C. Since it seems that the ACs are untrained and inexperienced (also will be busy during a disaster) we, as radio operators, need to learn what kind of traffic goes to the EOC (Emergency traffic that the Neighborhoods cannot handle such as gas main breaks, water main breaks, out of control fires, etc.); and what kind of traffic should go to the areas/neighborhoods. Use the appropriate format (as in B above)
- D. When to send out a general all-bulletin (QST) as a general situational awareness message and/or a general request for resources (material or human). The SET did this very well.
- E. All stations need to ID every ten minutes when in a QSO and at the beginning and end of each series of transmissions. Most stations were in violation of this FCC rule.
- F. When calling any station ALWAYS state the station's callsign whom you are calling first, followed by your own callsign (be the callsigns tactical or FCC). Example: K6RJM K6KOP (K6KOP calling K6RJM). Do not reverse it. Why? Because while listening to a net for a long time one becomes alerted when they hear their callsign and then they are alerted to the following station's callsign who is calling them. When checking-in just use your callsign. NCS will acknowledge you. If you have traffic voice your callsign followed by "traffic." If it is emergency traffic voice callsign followed by "emergency." Example, "KJ6PPR Emergency."

When checking-back in after an assignment, voice: your callsign followed by the word, "back". Example: "EC9 back". NCS will acknowledge you, assuming that you have cleared any traffic. If you still have traffic or an unresolved issue, voice your callsign, followed by "with traffic" or simply "traffic".

- G. Following the rule of efficiency (handling the most messages in the least amount of time without sacrificing accuracy)
 - 1. Be succinct
 - 2. Do not repeat back the message needlessly.
 - UNLESS you are uncertain, as to its accuracy ask for a conformation is best.

Oct. 26th SET Critique *(continued)*

H. Moving off frequency

This worked fairly well; but we can tighten this up. Here is a sample efficient exchange.

NCS: "EC7 call EC5 here and move EC5 to 146.475 and pass your traffic"

EC7: EC5 EC7 how copy"

EC5: "Copy Q5"

EC7: "Move to 146.475"

EC5: "Going"

EC7: "Going"

Acknowledgement

If given a message or direction, simply voice, "copy". Voicing "roger" or "check" is often efficient.

I. Did everyone receive and send traffic? Was the SET useful and interesting for all?

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019 and 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020	9/17/2020

Action Item: Help create a deep pool of skilled NC operators. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications. [A list of training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website. We continue to average 14 check-ins per week, with very strong growth in participation over the past 3 weeks with 18-20 check-ins. Thanks for your participation

PSPS Power Outages and Fire Patrol

October brought high offshore wind events and severe fire hazard. Several KARO ECHO members in Kensington and the El Cerrito Hills lost power for multiple days. Although cell phone service was not severely impacted in the area, many operators monitored and communicated on 146.415 and an informal fire patrol operated mobile and reported on the same frequency. These events were also an opportunity to monitor radio traffic and learn from operations in other areas of Contra Costa, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Nov. 11th, 2019
- ♦ Dec. 9th, 2019

Yearly dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to:

KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is still 146.415 MHz simplex. **Our secondary frequency however has been changed to 146.475 MHz simplex** thus creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

KARO ECHO Dues

Action Item: Please send in your dues to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's meeting at the Arlington Park clubhouse. You can still be a non-voting member of KARO ECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40) for family membership), please come and participate in any case. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications are welcome.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

VE exam in El Cerrito

A ham licensing exam will be held on Nov. 13th at 6:30 (open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade). FCC examinations and license applications will be administered by EBARC volunteer examiners (VE) for a fee of \$15. Bring payment, photo ID and FRN number. The location is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

SET Video on YouTube

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact info@karoecho.net We need your help -- don't be shy.

CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLln4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email info@karoecho.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>
- ◆ Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, November 11th, 2019 Meeting see: <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net